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I hereby certify this correspondence, and any attachment thereto, is being transmitted to Group Art Unit 2839 of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, to the attention of Examiner Khiem M. Nguyen, by facsimile transmission to 703-872-9306 for regular communications on the date indicated below.


Christopher C. Dreimann

3/24/04
Date of Signature

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	BARNES et al.)	
)	Group Art Unit: 2839
Serial No.:	09/532,722)	
)	Examiner: NGUYEN, K.M.
Filing Date:	March 22, 2000)	
)	
Title:	MULTIFIBER CONNECTOR INSTALLATION TOOL AND ASSOCIATED METHODS OF VALIDATING OPTICAL FIBER CONTINUITY		

VIA FACSIMILE: 703-872-9306
Examiner: Khiem M. Nguyen
Pages: 2

MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 22, 2004, please reconsider the above-identified application in view of the following remarks.

REMARKS

The Examiner requires restriction of the application to the invention of claims 1-17, drawn to a method of validating continuity of an optical fiber, or to the invention of claims 18-

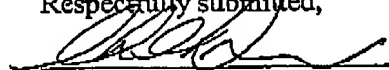
BARNES et al.
09/532,722
Page 2

23, drawn to a fiber optic installation tool. In support of the restriction requirement, the Examiner asserts that "the process or method steps can be carried out by hand or by other devices than the tool recited, since none of the tool features are being recited in the method claims." Office Action at page 2.

Applicants hereby elect without traverse the invention of Group I, claims 1-17, drawn to a method of validating continuity of an optical fiber, for further prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, the Examiner may withdraw claims 18-23 from consideration without prejudice to be reinstated in the event the restriction requirement is withdrawn, to be resubmitted in dependent form or otherwise including all of the limitations of an allowable generic claim, or to be re-filed as one or more continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part applications.

This response being fully responsive to the Office Action, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and the undersigned respectfully solicits such action on their behalf. This response does not result in more independent or total claims than paid for previously. Accordingly, no fee for excess claims is due. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any other fee due in connection with the filing of this response to Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If an extension of time not already accounted for is required with this response, Applicants hereby petition for such extension of time and the Examiner is likewise authorized to charge the petition fee to Deposit Account No. 19-2167.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: March 24, 2004